

Region 8 Strategic Agricultural Initiative (SAI) – Efforts to Assist Agriculture

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EPA Region 8



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What is the Strategic Ag Initiative?

- ▶ Supports the Region 8 Agriculture Priority
- ▶ Assists R8 producers in transitioning from high risk pesticides to low risk pesticides & practices in support of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)
- ▶ Tech assistance, grant program, outreach
- ▶ Build partnerships and leverage resources
- ▶ 10 Regional specialists, HQ Office of Pesticides Program Coordinator

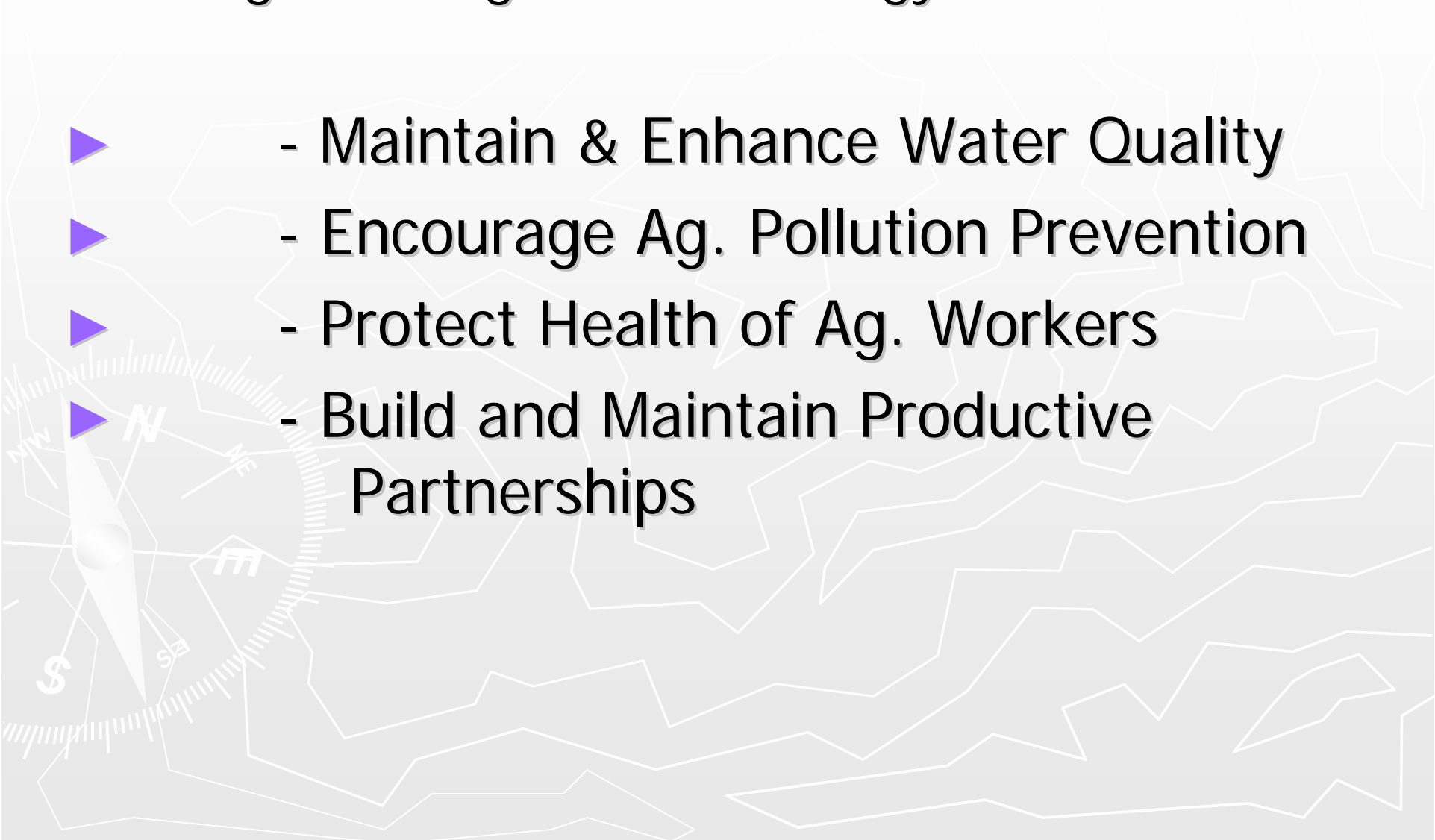


SAI MISSION

To support and promote environmentally sound agricultural and pest management practices across the U.S. that are economically viable and socially responsible



Significant contributions in 4 priority areas in Region 8's Agriculture Strategy:

- 
- Maintain & Enhance Water Quality
 - Encourage Ag. Pollution Prevention
 - Protect Health of Ag. Workers
 - Build and Maintain Productive Partnerships

SAI Grant Funds

- ▶ Region 8 SAI funds are part of the Regional Priorities Grant Program (Consolidated Funding Process)
- ▶ Region 8 – approximately \$93,000 annually (National program, \$1.8 million for grants)
- ▶ Research, education and demonstration projects

SAI Grant Program

Focus = minor & specialty crops

Goal = + movement on IPM continuum

Tools = IPM, including chemical substitution, new technology, and cultural practices; self assessment & 3rd party certification (i.e. Food Alliance, etc.)

Grantees = state agencies, grower groups, commodity groups, University researchers and extension, 3rd party certifiers

Region 8 SAI Grants

- ▶ **21 projects funded with Regional SAI funds between 2001 and 2006**
- ▶ **\$750,000 total in R8 SAI grants**
- ▶ **Precision agriculture, reduced pesticide use and reduced risk practices**
- ▶ **Corn, onions, sugar beets, sunflowers, grapes, cherries, vegetable crops, rangeland**

SAI Toolbox and Database

- ▶ Web-based guidance to assist with grant management & focus project outcomes
- ▶ Database records SAI grant data for over 100 funded projects throughout the US
- ▶ Measuring program and project results

▶ www.aftresearch.org/sai



SAI Toolbox - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Strategic Agricultural Initiative Toolbox



The Strategic Agricultural Initiative Toolbox

The Strategic Agricultural Initiative is EPA's outreach program to demonstrate and facilitate the adoption of farm pest management practices that will enable growers to transition away from the use of high-risk pesticides. The program helps develop pest management practices and products that are safe, effective and support the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) with a unique focus on regional needs. The SAI Toolbox provides SAI specialists and SAI grant applicants with useful information designed to maximize the success of the program and produce the results or outcomes sought by EPA.

For: [SAI Specialists](#)

For: [SAI Grant Applicants](#)

This site requires Adobe Acrobat Reader ([Download](#)).



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Transition Index

- 0 – no transition, growers not interested in change**
- 1 – growers interested in learning about IPM**
- 2 – reduced risk practices have been initiated**
- 3 – growers utilize key management practices**
- 4 – full implementation of reduced risk management practices**
- 5 – adoption of a “whole systems” approach integrating pest, soil, water, air and crop management**

Contact Information

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